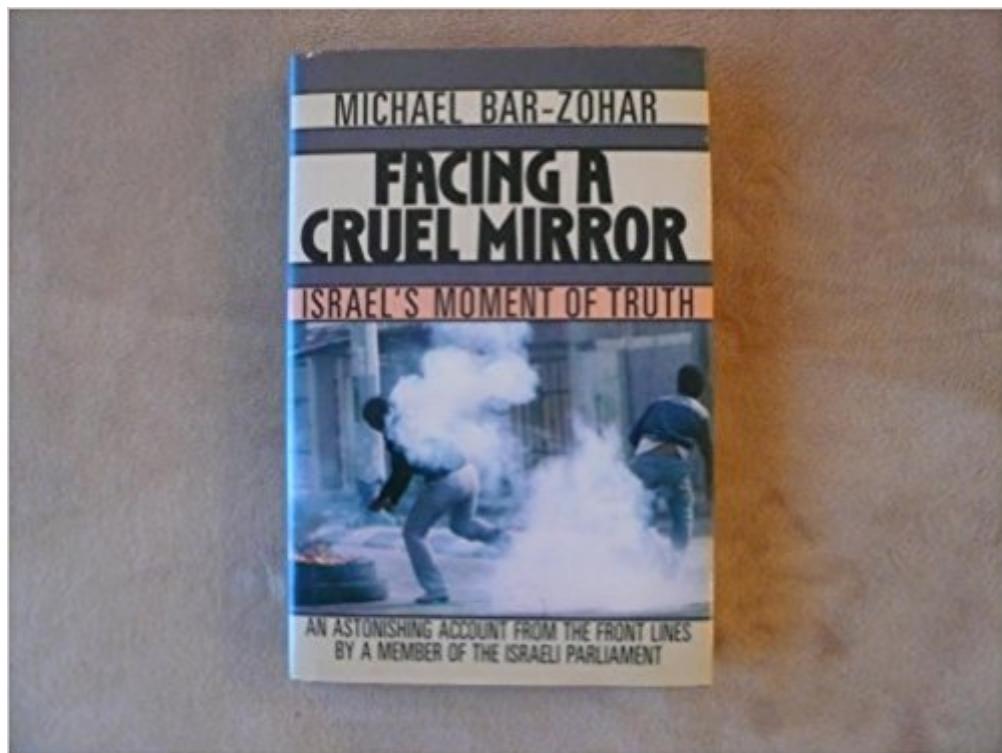


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Facing A Cruel Mirror: Israel's Moment Of Truth



Synopsis

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Customer Reviews

Former Knesset member Michael Bar-Zohar wrote this 1990 look at Israel's defensive acquisition of Gaza, the ancient Jewish territories of Judea and Samaria (the so-called West Bank of the Jordan) and the ancient Old City in Jerusalem, before recent studies. He concludes that Israel cannot realistically hold any of these areas, despite their legal acquisition under international law, thanks to demographic "realities." That was before the 1993 Oslo Accords, before the Palestinian Authority, and before recent scholarly assessments of Palestinian and Jewish populations rendered much of this work, and indeed, Bar-Zohar's assessment outdated at best. His conclusions were based neither on international law, nor on realistic assessments of current-day demographics. Indeed, the above noted demographic studies have exposed several myths enshrined in common perceptions of the growth and sustainability of Jewish and Arab populations--both within the 1949 Green line and within the disputed territories. There are certainly interesting details concerning internal Israeli politics, private discussions between Israeli leaders and even private meetings (many of them) between King Hussein of Jordan and Israeli leaders beginning with Golda Meir in 1948, which achieved many understandings, albeit limited, but ultimately failed to temper overall Arab rejectionism or resolve the conflict. Bar Zohar also captures a good sense of Arab hatred of Jews

following the Six-Day War. In Chapter 3, for example, he quotes a poem of Fadwa Tukkan, beginning, "The hunger of my hatred/ opens his mouth./ Nothing but their livers would satisfy the hunger that dwells in my flesh./ Oh my intense, stormy rage!/ They murdered the love inside me.

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